

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 – 7:00 PM
WINDHAM TOWN HALL

Members of the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority joined the Windham Water Pollution Control Authority and the Windham Board of Selectmen to discuss the formation of a Regional Sewer Authority.

Members of the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority present from Mansfield: Ms. Blair, Mr. Clouette, Ms. Duffy, Mr. Hawkins, Mayor Paterson and Mr. Paulhus
Staff present: Matthew Hart, Town Manager, Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Doug Gillette, Bond Counsel - Day Berry & Howard LLP, and Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

WPCA Superintendent David Garand presented three possible scenarios for the Windham Facility upgrade funding (attached). Mr. Garand spoke in favor of the regionalization option noting that economy of scale, the fact that Windham is better equipped to maintain the facility and that the facility is in good shape to fund the upgrade are all good reasons for Mansfield to join Windham.

The newly formed WPCA would be a self-supporting water pollution authority making it eligible for additional grant consideration. A 7 member regional board of directors would be formed with Windham having 6 members and Mansfield 1 member. Voting would be weighted according to water usage. The assets of each town would be transferred to the Board, which would have all the powers of a municipality.

Matt Hart, speaking for the Mansfield staff, stated that he is interested in reviewing the draft proposal and had expected that tonight's meeting was going to be an opportunity to discuss the organizational structure of the regional authority. The Town Manager noted that it is too premature to talk about numbers.

In response to Mr. Gauand's comments about the brevity of the allotted time frame and his concerns about having everything in place in order not to lose the additional 5% allocated by the Department of Environmental Protection for Regional Boards, Counsel from the two Boards agreed to have a conversation with the D.E.P. to see what options are available.

Mayor Paterson noted that the October 2 deadline described by Mr. Gauand would be extremely difficult for Mansfield since the authorization would require the approval of a new ordinance.

Members of the Mansfield Water Pollution Control Authority met after the meeting to discuss their options.

Elizabeth Paterson, MWPCA

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk